

Wesleyan University

Middletown, Ct. March 20, 1859.



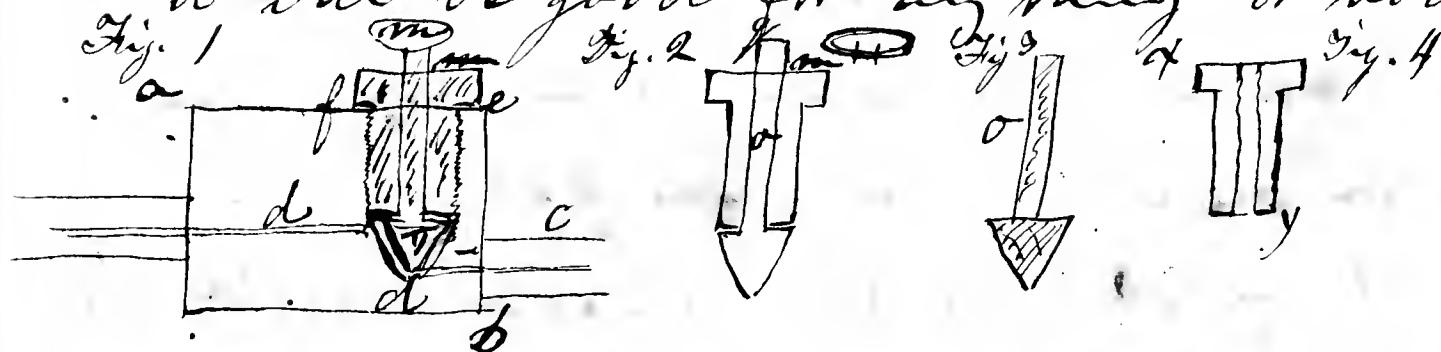
a scrawl of  
Dear Sir, - Your favor in reply to  
mine some time since came safely to hand

As you remark, I cannot conceive how the two  
excellent editors of the American Journal of Science  
could make such a mistake concerning solid car-  
bonic acid I cannot conceive!

Please accept my thanks for your sugges-  
tions concerning the best method of securing liquid  
car. acid in glass tubes. I have had no time at  
command to experiment further since I wrote.

I have not been able to proceed any further  
in the construction of the "improved stop-cock" (as  
you are pleased to call it) for gases under high  
pressures, and it is yet quite problematical whether  
it will prove to be really an "improvement" or  
the reverse; nor am I able to say as there is com-  
ing nothing new about it though I never saw or heard  
of any thing of the kind, except Dr. Mitchell's double  
conical stop-cock, of the construction of which I must  
confess I cannot form a very definite idea!

I will give you a description of the stop-cock  
 I propose, and for which I have the castings ready,  
 but have not ~~been~~ had sufficient leisure to finish  
 it. Perhaps you can tell me at a glance whether  
 it will be good for any thing or not!



Let  $a b$  be a solid piece of brass 2 inches  
 square and  $1\frac{1}{8}$  inch thick, and in the side  
 drill a hole  $\frac{7}{8}$  inch in diameter to a sufficient  
 depth to hold a cord steel screw with firmness  
 and let it be  
 conical at bottom as at  $d$ . Let a cord steel screw  
 $x y$  (right hand figure) be fitted to this internal  
 screw with a firm shoulder to run upon the solid  
 piece of brass at  $f e$  fig. 1; in this screw drill another  
 hole to receive the screw  $o$ , fig. 3 with its inverted  
 cone at bottom. If <sup>and</sup> every part is properly constructed  
 we may screw the part  $o$ , fig. 2, into  $x y$ , fig. 4,  
 and the shoulder will come against the lower extremity  
 at  $y$  which is supposed to be accurately polished, and it will  
 be as represented in fig. 2; and to the top  $g$  of the  
 part  $o$  may be fitted the thumb-piece  $m$ . The

which may now be screwed into the place proposed  
in the solid piece of brass a b, and will be as  
represented in fig. 1. Now if c represents the tube  
which leads to the gunner, and d the tube  
leading into the open air or another receiver,  
it appears plain that when closed the conical  
point will be sufficient to prevent the escape of  
the gas; and by starting the thumb-screw on  
the gas is permitted to pass out but can escape in  
no other direction! Will it work? And is it  
better or worse than the double conical stop-  
cock?

We have met with an irreparable loss  
in the death of our connected friend, Dr. Fish.  
You letter came during his illness; and on being  
presented with your kind salutations, he expressed his  
regard for you and wished to be remembered to you  
when I should write again.

Very respectfully

John Torrey M.D.

John Johnston



11/2  
PAID  
D

John Gorrie M.D.  
College of Physicians & Surgeons  
Brooklyn 84-  
N. York.

Recd. May 6th

Wesleyan University  
Middletown, Ct. May 6, 1879.

Dear Sir, Accept my thanks for your late favor, which came to hand in due time. I was gratified to hear of your success in solidifying carb. acid, though I of course knew, in your peering hands, such would be the result. Under less pressing engagements than mine are just at the present time, I should probably have visited N. York previous to this time, in the hope of witnessing one of your experiments.

My last letter was necessarily written in a very hasty manner, and I feared it did not express clearly and precisely what I intended. Had it time so, it would have been seen that my proposed stopcock ~~contained~~ did not contain the radical defect you supposed! The escape of the gas around the seat of the valve-stem was supposed to be prevented in the same manner as in the one proposed by Dr. Mitchell, as described in your last; and indeed my proposed stopcock differs from his only in having a conical point to the valve to stop the gas from escaping when it is

closed, instead of a "head brain"! The construction proposed by Dr. M., I am inclined to think, all things considered, will be found superior to any other. I hope by and by to make some experiments on this point, but at present have no time to devote to it.

But a day or two before your letter arrived I had been turning my attention to the remains of infusoria, or rather the articles that have appeared on the subject, and was desirous to search for them in this vicinity, but had been nothing as yet. I will endeavor to obtain some specimens from Stamford. How high a magnifying power is required to discern them?

Will it be asking too much of you to request you to get a stop-cock made for me by the workman to whom you refer? I wish it made to connect the generator and main, and of sufficient length to be attached to the ~~plug~~ rather than the body of the generator and main, as I understand was the case with yours. If it should be convenient for you to attend to it, I wish it made strong and substantial, but the outside may be left in a rough state, all the labor being expended upon it that may be necessary to make it answer perfectly the purpose for which it is designed, and no more. If it can be made and



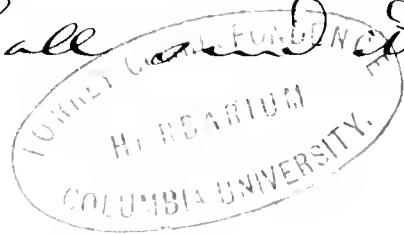
sent by the Hartford board, I will forward the money  
to Dr. Chilton 263 Broadway. Possibly I may not  
be able to do it immediately, but it may be de-  
pended upon within a reasonable time. I wish  
it made on the construction most approved by your-  
self.

Our old man. Dr. Mitchell's proportions are  $1\frac{3}{4}$  lbs  
bicar. soda, 24 fluid ounces of water, & 9 fluid ounces  
of common sul. acid. Permit me to inquire what  
he means by fluid ounces? Does he intend ounces  
as they could be measured in a glass graduated  
for measuring water? This is what I  
have supposed, as it will make the quantity  
of acid present nearly sufficient to neu-  
tralize the soda.

L. Terry M.D.

In sincerity and high esteem  
Yours &c. John Johnston.

P.S. Dr. Bland informs me he intends to visit  
N. York soon, and may be there even before  
this reaches you, since I shall be sent by private  
conveyance.



Prof. John Torrey M.D.  
College of Physicians & Surgeons  
Crosby St  
New York



And Sir, And

Wesleyan University

Middletown, Ct.

Nov. 4, 1839.  
HERBARIUM  
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Dear Sir, - Prof. Shepard of New Haven was expected to deliver an address before the Enviroan Society of the Wes. University, at our late commencement, but he was obliged to relinquish it in consequence of his sailing for Europe about the same time; and having no substitute we failed of having any address. In order to avoid a similar occurrence again, it has been proposed to adopt the plan pursued by many associations of a similar character, and appoint a substitute, who may be prepared, should the regular appointee fail, <sup>but</sup> <sup>what</sup> if he should perform, should be considered the regular orator for the succeeding year. Prof. Shepard, it is hoped, may be able to give us next year the address it is supposed he had partly, at least, prepared for our late anniversary, but it is not certain; and the subscribers or a committee of the Soc. would be pleased to know whether, if he should fail <sup>at our next commencement</sup>, it would be convenient for you to honor us with an address; or, if otherwise, to give it to us at our succeeding commencement!

The address has usually been delivered

the afternoon of the day preceding commencement,  
which takes place the first Wednesday of Aug.

The committee are authorized to make the ap-  
pointment, and should your reply be in the  
affirmative, we shall place our dependence accordingly.  
Very respectfully

Wm. T. Ferry M.D.

John Thurston } Com. of C.  
J. H. Goodale } Society.

Dr. Ferry

Dear Sir, - Permit me to add my  
personal solicitation to the above, that you will  
honor us in the manner proposed. It will, from  
you, even without any such object in view, would be  
very gratifying to many in this place, and especially  
at our literary anniversary, and may we not hope  
the two objects will be combined?

I was glad to hear from you a day or two  
since, by Dr. Barnard, who, by the way, does not  
yet lose any of his enthusiasm in the cause  
of science, and especially in Botany! I presume  
his Catalogue of the plants <sup>growing naturally</sup> in Middlebury and  
vicinity, if it is ever published, will be one of the  
best things of the kind that has appeared, and  
singularly accurate and full in references &c.

I have been constructing a car. acid apparatus, which I have tested thoroughly several times, and it stands it (stop-cocks and all) perfectly; and once I obtained a little of the solid. Just as I was ready however to operate with it, every in-cellar in this plan failed, and I am now waiting for a new crop, of which we begin to have some indication! It is destitute of gauges, and no regard has been paid to the appearance of the thing; but I think I shall astonish the N. York manufacturers with regard to the cost! And a little caution perhaps <sup>should</sup> be observed in this respect, till I have proved it further! How large should the tube be which connects the generator and receiver, as well as the apparatus of the stop-cocks? I have thought I may have made them too small.

What are the peculiarities of the Kaspail microscope of <sup>which</sup> Prof. Bailey speaks in his article on fossil infusoria, and where can it be obtained? How do you use the glass globules you prepare for lenses? In the common comp. microscope! I have some specimens of infusoria, as I suppose, from the state of Maine and other places, but have not the means of determining them. Have you any specimens to spare?

Accept assurances of my sincere regards

Respectfully yours &c. John Johnston

John Torrey M. D.  
Prof. of Chemistry - College of Physicians  
and Surgeons  
Platinum of Crosby St  
Rw. H. Bradstreet } New York

Middletown, Ct. Nov. 3. 1840.

Dear Sir,

Accept my acknowledgements for a good word from you through Dr. Barratt, on one or two occasions during the past season.



We have the materials ready, and are about commencing the construction of a galvanic battery, which we design to contain about 140 pairs of plates. It has occurred to me that an instrument may be constructed so as to be made either a deflagrator or calorimeter, at pleasure; but it would require too much space to attempt <sup>here</sup> a description of the means by which this is to be accomplished! Has a battery of this kind ever been constructed?

During our last vacation I made a hasty journey to my native state, Maine, where I found the *Halimolobos* *Deflexa* (Grewia *Deflexa* of some authors) and the *Orchis* *Obtusata* in great abundance. The latter is (I think) the *Platanthera* *Obtusata* of Hooker. Not having attempted the collection of a herbarium myself, I gave my specimens to Dr. Barratt, who indeed determined the species. The Dr. says <sup>both</sup> the species are somewhat rare in the U. States; and as I intend to visit the place again another

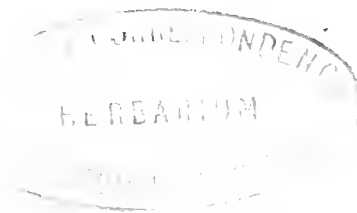
season, if Providence favors, I will collect some specimens for you if they would be desirable. They are found in Bristol Lincoln co., some four or five miles from Penaquid Point Light House.

One apparatus for solidifying car. acid performs the operation on a small scale to admiration. I am about adding a gauge to determine the height of the liquid in the receiver. I have lately prepared quite a number of tubes of liquid acid. I think I prefer Faraday's method of sealing hermatically; strange as it may seem I have never yet succeeded in cementing a cap on so as to stand perfectly for more than a day or two!

Very Respectfully

J. Gerry McD.

Yours & John Johnston



And  
verbally

Middlebury, Ct. Feb. 20, 1841.

My dear sir,

Your favor of the 17th inst. has  
just come to hand, and I hasten to reply.

As your letter was not received till evening, I can  
not get ready to leave on Monday, but if nothing unex-  
pected prevents, I shall hope to see you in your  
laboratory before the arrival of your horse for lecture on  
Tuesday evening. The apparatus may then be put in  
order for exhibition on Wednesday; and if it will suit  
your convenience, I shall be happy to attend to it that  
day, Providence permitting. If you have any desire to use  
it further, I shall have no objection to leaving it to  
with so kind and careful a friend.

Very respectfully, yours

Dr. John Tarr.

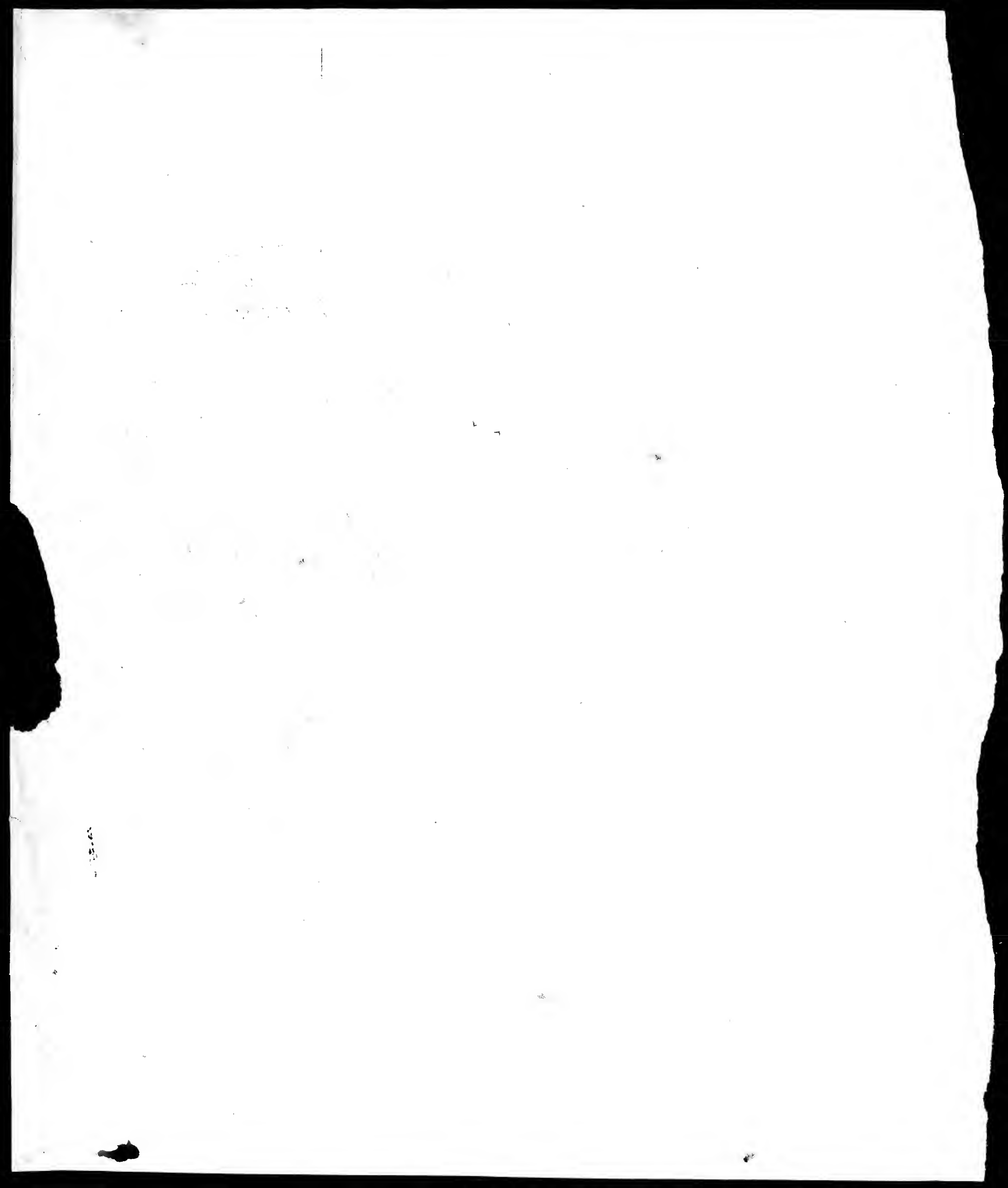
John Johnston

P.S. I have to-day just prepared an article on the  
proper construction and use of apparatus, for Silliman's  
Journal, which I presume will appear in the July No. the one  
forthcoming being now almost full. Perhaps it will not be thought  
worthy to appear at all!

Prof. S., accompanied by his son, has just gone to Boston  
to commence work with his course in chemistry before, or rather,  
in the "Lowell Institute." J. J.

P.S. I shall be under the necessity of returning Thursday



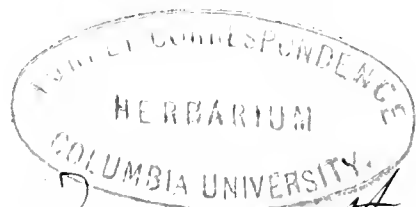


Recd March 23.

and April 6th

Middletown, Ct. March 20, 1841.

Dear Sir,



Dr. Baratt favored me with a reading of your letter to him a few days ago. Your improvement in the valve for the C solidifying apparatus is exceedingly gratifying. I am inclined to think the valve must be better than <sup>the</sup> old one, being so much more simple in its construction, independent of the fact that it must so admirably obviate the difficulty we had to contend with before. I soon expect a short article of mine on the general subject will appear in the July No. Prof. Sci. Journal, and I think it may be worth while to add a postscript giving a description of the improvement, and the difficulty it is particularly designed to obviate. Would you have any objection to such a course?

Can you give me any suggestions from which I may profit with regard to publishing a second edition of my Chemistry? A large part of the edition printed has been disposed of, and I intend soon to commence preparation for a second. I should be glad to have it published in New York, if some responsible publisher could be found who would like to take hold of it. My intention is to arrange it about

50 pages, and bring the series fully up to the present time, and introduce many new figures or a number more; all which I think may be done without increasing the price much if any. Ward & Putnam be likely to think favorably of the proposition if it were made to them! Any suggestion on the subject, at your convenience, would be most gratefully received.

I shall ever remember my late visit to your city, both as it was, with great pleasure & satisfaction.

Dr. B. is not, as I can learn, doing any thing in particular just at the present time!

Please present my sincere regards to your excellent lady and daughter, and also to Dr. Gray, and believe me

Dear yours as ever Wm Johnston  
Dr. S. J. Perry.

P.S. I left a small box in your laboratory containing a small quantity of a powder that was collected by Dr. Jackson in his survey of clays at Bluehill, and was labelled when it came into my hands "Hydrate of silica." Does it contain iron in a fossil state? S. J.

Middleton, Ct., April 18, '45.

Dear Sir, A vacancy having occurred in the professorship of Chemistry in the Willoughby Medical Institution of Ohio, some of my friends there have persuaded me to offer myself for the place, and desire that I should obtain such testimonials of my fitness for <sup>it</sup> ~~the place~~ as may be convenient. As it has been my good fortune to form some acquaintance with yourself in years past, it would afford me great satisfaction if you can say a word in my favor in reference to this matter. There will be respectable competition for the place, and the decision, it is expected, will be made before long, so that a reply at as early a period as may be convenient, is desirable.

I was in New York last May, and as I passed by the Willoughby College, I stopped in and took a peep at you, my friend! It is a grand affair. Would that I could now see it do execution!

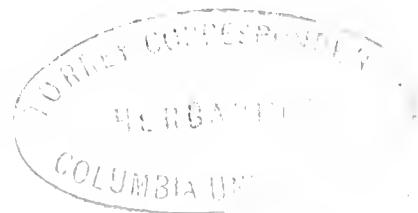
Your friend Dr. Bancroft often speaks of  
you. He is busy as ever cultivating the various  
branches of science. I believe he intends to bring  
forward some of his productions at the approach-  
ing scientific meeting in New Haven, of which  
you will no doubt hear.

My affectionate regards to yourself, lady and  
family.

Very respectfully

Prof. John Torrey, M.D.

Yours  
John Johnston



Middletown, Ct. March 25, 1846.

My dear Sir,

Your very acceptable favor  
came to hand last evening, and found me  
suffering with the cuts and bruises occasioned  
by the bursting of a <sup>air</sup> bladder <sup>some time</sup> on my hands  
and face. Fortunately, my eyes escaped unhurt,  
but two fingers of my left hand and my face  
are badly cut. But why so careless? I suffer  
you are disposed to ask. The particulars are hardly  
worth detailing, but it was ~~one~~ of those accidents  
that will sometimes occur, in <sup>spite</sup> of every  
precaution.

I will not attempt to disguise the fact  
that I was particularly gratified to receive  
your favor; for though I have no claim upon you,  
it is not therefore any the less agreeable to be re-  
membered by one for whom I had conceived so high  
an esteem. But do not suppose I have, or  
any disposition to complain, because of my not  
receiving a reply to my request with reference  
to the Willoughby Medical School. Not at all!  
I knew too well the constant and pressing  
demands upon your time, and did not fail  
to adopt the most hypothesis in reference to

the matter. And although I failed to obtain the  
place I sought, I do not suppose it was because  
of any lack in the recommendation by which my claims  
(if I may use such a word in this connection) were sup-  
ported. A Doct. Sumner of Lowell (I believe) was elected;  
and I have been given to understand that the de-  
cision of the question turned chiefly upon the fact of  
his having a regular M.D. But there were several  
other candidates, among whom was Prof. Hubbard of  
Dartmouth College.

As I am upon this subject, I will just say  
that, as we have a long vacation in the winter,  
I would still be pleased to occupy the chair of  
Chemistry in some Medical Institution which  
holds its sessions at this <sup>of the year</sup> season, and if it  
should happen at any time, when you are invited  
to recommend a candidate for such a place,  
if <sup>that</sup> you can conscientiously pursue my name, it will  
be considered a great favor.

Has Doct. Barlett informed you of his discovery  
of ice-marks in the new not sandstone of the Con-  
necticut valley? You have probably seen some no-  
tice of it in the account of the doings of the  
American Association at New Haven, last May.  
The Dr. is enthusiastic with regard to it, and  
considers the point as demonstrated. I have di-  
rected my attention to the subject a little the year  
past, and have especially observed the markings  
in the mud recently made by the foraging of



the crystals of  
water in the surface. I have, I must confess, perceived  
a striking resemblance between them and the markings  
in the stone, but it will require of course a large accum-  
ulation of evidence in favor of the position, before it  
can be admitted, in opposition to the notion which now  
prevail with regard to the climate of the distant pe-  
riod when this stone was deposited.

The Dr. has also been giving his attention somewhat  
to the study of languages, as the Hebrew, Arabic, Chi-  
nese, &c., not omitting the interesting subject of the  
languages of the Aborigines of our country. Of late  
he has been pushing his investigations into the Irish;  
and in the absence of a Dictionary, which, unfortu-  
nately, our little place does not supply, he is making  
use of an intelligent Irishman in forming a com-  
piled vocabulary! He is certainly a most industrious  
man; and in several branches of Natural  
History he has formed collections, which it is very valu-  
able for the student of Nature to examine  
if not to empy.

I am glad to hear that your two vols. of the  
great work of the Nat. History of the Empire  
State are soon to be published. We have made  
arrangements, so that we hope to receive the  
10 vols. now published soon, and we hope too  
the other vols. as they may be published, - but  
we have to pay a pretty good price. It seems  
to me the Legislature of the State managed  
that matter badly. After spending an immense sum

in the evening, and in the preparation of the work,  
they continued an admirable mode of distribution  
time just to <sup>and the</sup> advantage of their own liberality  
into the pockets (in too many instances)  
of undeserving speculation.

The people of this place are all alive  
just now to the project of connecting the  
cities of New York & Boston by a continuous  
railroad. If constructed as proposed, it will  
pass through this place, which is about mid  
way between the two termini.

I am glad to hear of the success of  
the old College of Phys. & Surgery in New  
York; and if the other <sup>institutions</sup> makes  
much noise, I do not imagine you will  
find any difficulty in living and flourishing  
by their side.

My sincerest regards to your excellent lady  
and daughters, and to Prof. Hays & family, not  
forgetting my friend Mr. T. Bayler if you should  
see him.

Prof. J. Jones M. D.

Respectfully Yours

John Johnston

Middletown, Ct. Oct. 30, 1848.

My dear Dad,

It affords me sincere pleasure to perform the work of supererogation which you requested; and herewith I send you such a document as I suppose the circumstances require. If in any thing it can be amended—as is very probable—please return it, with the proper suggestions, and it shall have immediate attention.

We seem to be destitute of scientific news at present—all attention is turned towards our railroad which is to connect us with New Haven and New York. When it is finished—if the thing does not take place before—I shall seriously expect that visit "in situ."

Doct. Barnatt has been for a year or more almost overwhelmed with his discoveries in prosecuting the study of the Irish language and cognate dialects among the Irish people in this vicinity, aided occasionally by a reference to books! A day or two since he showed me a beautiful mineral specimen with which I am not familiar but he had not been able to determine it; nor could I by mere inspection. He was under injunction of secrecy from the discoverer, so that I did not know its "habitat." So his light still shines  
Yours John Johnston

Dad 2. 21. 1848. 16. 5.

Prof. Johnston

John Torrey M.D.

Prof. &c

College Physicians & Surgeons

New York City

Westbrook.



Hiddell St., Oct. 17, 1904

My dear Sir,

Many thanks for  
your kind favour. The information  
has been continued in its ~~present~~ <sup>present</sup> state  
to the point.

It must seem strange to  
me & to those who interest,  
connected with the history -  
the institution has it - and  
is adequately answered, as the  
matter is not dissimilar of explanation,  
though to attempt it now  
would require too much detail.  
The friends are indeed not loath  
to do something, for we see the  
result - i.e. doubtless, in coming  
very successful in their present  
effort to improve our finances. I  
may think it appropriate to seek  
another place.

A place in a medical col-

age & you suppose will suit  
me well provided I remain un-  
employed in one other I can  
be employed during the week,  
I can be employed. But I can  
not do it - I can not make money  
enough to fill such a place at  
the 21st day of the year.

I am well now, that, need  
be connected with this institu-  
tion nearly nineteen years, it  
is making something of a pro-  
gress to leave it for another,  
& this will not be done hastily. Two  
or three weeks ago I had the offer of  
a place in a college in Western  
New York, and I did not consider  
it any better than the one I hold  
& therefore declined.

I believe that the friends  
of education in this country  
will be more numerous than  
before and will not be any other

I am sorry I have been long  
in forming to turn my attention to  
it, but after many months, I have  
now advanced so far in my  
studies as to be prepared  
in the coming season to go  
to the elements!

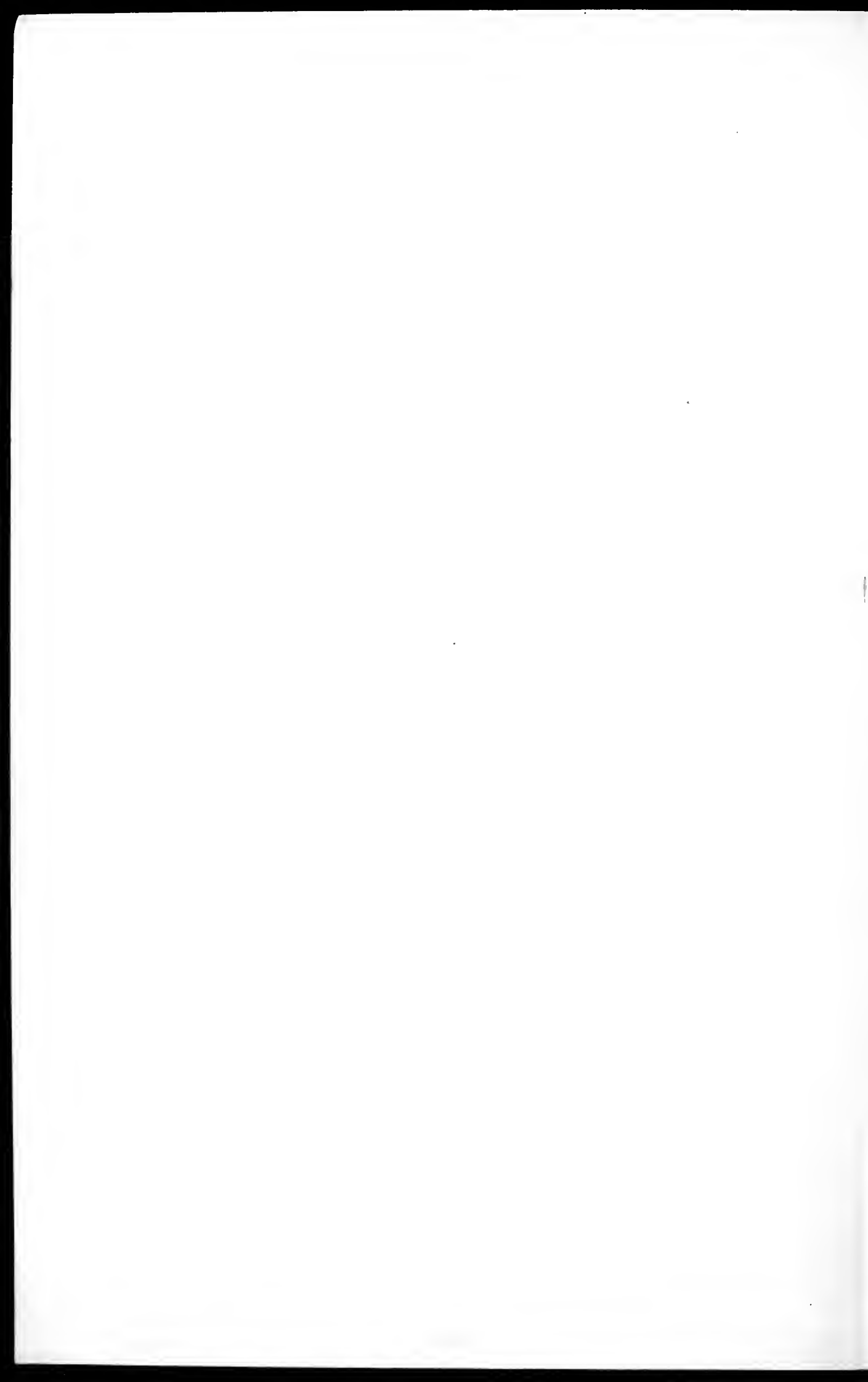
But not to weary you for-  
bearing, if you see occasion to  
recommend a graduate of some  
medical school you  
will do me a favor by  
my name.

Respectfully, Yrs.

I am I trust

Yrs. I am Y. H. H. H.





Wichita, Feb. 20/57

My dear Sir,

A few days after  
I saw you in New York the  
testimonial procured for me  
& used on a former occasion  
was found by Mrs. King, &  
forwarded to me for examina-  
tion. I have done so, & thinking  
them as good as new, I have  
taken the liberty to forward  
them again, with some addi-  
tional <sup>ones</sup> as will be shown by  
the dates. Many of them I had  
not seen before, & among them  
an excellent one from your-  
self, which, notwithstanding  
your stated relation to the  
Board of Trustees, I trust you  
will still allow me to use.

I called at the house of Dr.  
Knox with the letter you

kindly gave me, but unfortunately he was not at home, & being obliged to leave in the afternoon, I did not see him.

I have not even your acquaintance against an old friend, Dr. Barnard, the first time I saw him after my return, & like an old friend, he confirmed the whole of mine! it is he was careful to tell you exact details, I presume he has written you before this.

There is nothing specially new with me. Prof. Brush, whom I saw in New Haven a week ago, informs me that in mining the crystals in Greenland, they have recently discovered crystals of columbite,

which, for beauty, entirely ~~a~~  
eclipse our commonest spec-  
imens!

Respectfully yours,  
John Johnston  
Prof. John Berry, M.D.

